

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 L-03 H-02 /023 W

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R 081239Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5193

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5246

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRA, IN

SUBJECT: ARBITRATION DISPUTE

REF: NEW DELHI 4844

1. TO OUR SURPRISE, GOI OFFICIAL TELEPHONED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR APRIL 8 TO STATE THAT, WHILE FCI WAS NOT PREPARED TO SEND LETTER TO IDI PROPOSING NEGOTIATIONS DIRECTED AT A SETTLEMENT, IT WOULD REACT "POSITIVELY" TO AN IDI PROPOSAL THAT DISCUSSIONS BE RESUMED.

2. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR NOTED THAT THIS POSITION WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT TAKEN AT SUBCOMMISSION MEETING. IF INDEED FCI AND IDI WERE AS CONFIDENT AS THE CLAIM, THE PROSPECTS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WERE NOT EXACTLY GOOD. NEVERTHELESS, ECON COUNSELOR AGREED TO PASS ON MESSAGE TO BRIDGELAND.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PASS ON SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE TO BRIDGELAND. IF HE IS PREPARED TO WRITE TO FCI AND PROPOSE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS/NEGOTIATIONS, NO REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO GOI AND EMBASSY'S INVOLVEMENT.

4. COMMENT: WE COULD ONLY ASSUMED THAT THE GOI HAS BEEN APPLYING CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON FCI IN FAVOR OF A SETTLEMENT AND THAT THIS IS THE FCI RESPONSE. WE DON'T SEE THAT BRIDGELAND HAS ANYTHING TO LOSE BY ENTERING INTO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS (OTHER THAN HIS TIME AND PLANE

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FARE), BUT REMAIN DUBIOUS ABOUT THE CHANCES OF A

NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. DOES BRIDGELAND BELIEVE THAT THE
SECOND JUDGMENT WILL BE HANDED DOWN AS EARLY AS JULY?
SCHNEIDER

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